

## GO SOUTH, YOUNG MEN, GO SOUTH.

BY D. C. MOOMAW.

For half a century the "star of empire" or rather the tide of emigration, has rolled its ponderous tide westward until the land of that vast area has been filled with a people of undaunted energy and thrift.

A change has come to those people that mars the beautiful visions of the pleasant homes and moderate prosperity. Experience has shown them that those vast plains are subject to continued atmospheric disturbances far reaching and destructive to life and property.

A friend wrote me recently that out of a period of eighteen years he had only realized four average crops. What, with destructive vermin, insects, hot winds, drought, cyclones, etc., life there is greatly jeopardized and the accumulation of property rendered chimerical.

Driven to the verge of despair thousands of those people are leaving their country with its desolation and are seeking homes where fairer conditions prevail.

For the benefit of these people I will write of the vast Apalachian plain and the Piedmont and tide water area of the middle Atlantic slope. This section is bounded west by the Alleghany mountains, north by the southern Delaware Bay, south by the state of North Carolina, east by the Atlantic Ocean.

This section was settled by people of German and English extraction and but little foreign blood has been added since the Revolution.

Slavery prevailed before the war and most of the labor of the farms was performed by them. Many are here yet and mostly live frugal and peaceful lives. They are conscious of the supremacy of the whites and they constitute a splendid peasantry and are perfectly contented with their humble lot.

They are good neighbors when they do not exercise that social weakness of stealing poultry, etc.

The soil of this section produces all the crops of the temperate zone in profusion, under high tillage, and we do not know what a complete failure of crops is. We always have a surplus of country produce of some description to export.

This is extraordinary when we take the fact into consideration that at least one half of the arable land is uncultivated.

The climate of this section is all that beneficent nature could grant or the most captious could desire. Here we find that great condensation of minerals springs that bring health to the worn and weary people of the seaboard cities. The temperature is rarely ever above 80° in summer or below 10° in winter.

Living waters abound everywhere except in the tide water belt and pure streams of limpid water come down from the mountains and course through the beautiful meadows and hills. Fish of many varieties abound and game is plentiful in the vast forests.

We have few cities of large proportions and many counties do not possess a single town of over five hundred inhabitants.

Now the practical part of this question is, what inducements are offered to immigrants.

First we offer you the healthiest climate in the world. Epidemics are absolutely unknown.

Second, atmospheric disturbances are unknown.

Third, insect scourges are unknown.

Fourth, society is the purest of any country on the globe. Social impurity, except in towns, is exceedingly rare and there is not one divorce in five hundred marriages.

Our young men make the best husbands, and our young women, the purest wives the world ever saw. They generally marry between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five and there are few old bachelors or elderly maids.

The families average about eight children and prettier developed boys and girls cannot be found. Schools of all grades are convenient and churches in easy reach of every family. Post offices are thickly distributed and shops, mills, stores, etc., abound.

Now what do we say about the land, prices, terms of payment, etc.

There are millions of acres uncultivated since the war that were once in fair condition and produced average crops. For thirty years since the war they have lain idle, and immense acres have been returned to forest by natural processes. The pine is indigenous to

this section and it is a fine renovator of the soil.

The soil between the Alleghany and Blue Ridge Mountains is very rich clay loam, and the finest grain and stock is produced here in rich profusion. These lands sell for an average of \$30 per acre or say from \$10 to \$60 per acre.

The Piedmont section embraces the belt between the Blue Ridge and tide water. It is somewhat hilly but produces well, and people can make a living easily and by industry and economy, can lay by something on which to rest in their old age. Much of this land is yet in primeval forest.

As we approach tide water the land assumes the appearance of undulating prairie and along the rivers and creeks a high fertility prevails.

This land can be bought for prices ranging from \$2 to \$25 per acre. Oftimes it can be bought for less than the improvements are worth. The reason why such prices prevail is that most of the purchasable lands were once owned in large tracts by slave owners whose sons and daughters, unused to toil, have gone to the cities, and as no emigration has come to take them up, the purchaser can buy them at his own price.

The terms are generally of the purchaser's own dictation. One third cash and the residue in one, and two years generally prevail.

The tide water section embraces the belt skirting the ocean and is flat, sandy and in some sections near marshy places somewhat malarious.

This is not a desirable section for emigrants and our readers will not need further description.

There is more unoccupied land outside than this generation will want. Let our readers make a special note of the following remarks relative to these lands of the Piedmont belt.

They are unlike the alluvial lands of the west because of the preponderance of sand, and the slow processes of natural and artificial fertilization. An emigrant must be content to await the slow development of years for his reward but it will surely come and with it every comfort that virtue and age could desire.

I would give this advice. Let a company be organized, say of twelve or more families, and let them that must